Dear Paul Wurtzel, 3/29/75

If you are going to try to help I owe you more than simple answers to the questions you ask. Of them first cost: when there was a prospect of a deal 3-4 years ago the testimate was $15,000 to $20,000 for a 5M000 print. A smaller one is uneconomic. If I had the means, absed on the past and despite the comparatively slow sale of WW IV, I'd want to print 10,000 because at even a greater cost I am confident that in time they'll all sell. What is now keeping me going is the continuing sale of the entirely un-advertised original works, which are xxxxxxxx outselling WW IV by as much as 10 to 1 some days. The p.r. work I did with those I controlled when I had not a penny for it was that much more effective than what established publishers did with the other two. I don't think there has been a day since the end of September 1973 that there hasn't been an order. Can you iamgine the trouble it is for strangers to find out about me and then find me? xx But it happens, persistently.

This is another way of saying there is enormous interest. No subject is in the traditional sense more commercial today.

Based on the printing cost of WW IV I'd say that the cost would have to be not less than $20,000 and perhaps more if a "perfect" binding would not be suitable. The greater size means a real binding problem.

I have pnly the master set of the complete book here. I have one extra and it is now under consideration by a magazine editor whose magaxine has a publishing house. I have three copies out of my possession for security, particularly of the third part, which has enough in it to put a number of people in jail for deliberate perjury and to cause problems for those lawyers who suborned it. By this I mean if anyone had the disposition to enforce the law and I mean that the proof is documentary and unequivocal. A publishing lawyer has read it and says there is no possible refutation.That is the nature of the assembled evidence, the most significant parts of which the Warren Commission never had. (I got it elsewhere, properly and from officials.)

This version is camera-ready except for the appending, indexing the appendix, incorporating that into the text index, already completed on cards, and then typing the completed index. From past experience, which discounts the content, there will be a continuing sale for this book among the serious-minded who are interested in the subject and to libraries, colleges and law schools. It is surprising the proportion of current sales of WW IV to institutions. I haven t had time to pay close attention to yesterday's orders. (I'd have packaged them last night but my wife, who does the billing and bookkeeping is unwell.) I'd say that there were 3 to 4 to 1 institutional orders. And no trade publication has made mention of the book. The word gets around.

I owe you a little more about myself. I am blunt when forthrightness is not welcome and some people are turned off by it. Aside from believing that if one is to teach the pope religion he ought go to church himself this has become more my way because of too much experience. If people are going to turn off, the sooner the better for me. I also believe I owe it to xx others not to sugar-coat. And frankly at 62 and when I work a day of never less than 18 hours I just won't take time for being diplomatic. In addition to these and other reasons, I want to take no chances on being inaccurate or in any way misleading anyone.

The really terrible things other people do that too often I have to cope with later or clean up after contribute to this. Most of these others are well-intended but intention is irrelevant. Some are unstable personalities, some unsuit for what they long to do and others are plain nuts. There are several of these serious problems right now and they waste much time for me. I can t always do anything but if I see the possibility and consider it serious enough I do try. I prevented several greater disasters in New Orleans and am not loved by Garrison for it. He goes for brown noses.

Post Mortem as it now exists suffers a number of what by normal standards are literary liabilities. I can tick them all off but won t take the time. These are not liabilities to the vast majority of those who go for my work. Doing anything about them now is for all practical purposes a complete inpossibility. And the time can be spent better in almost any other endeavor because what is really required is a condensation/

popularization to sell for the minimum hardback price, a small book. It can't exist, can't be accepted, without the backstopping of the unabridged work. The story is actually that Byzantine. This lawyer who reads books for major publishers also agrees. So, the this magazine I've made but two stipulations with regard to the condensation: fidelity to the original work and small, least expensive size.

The work represents a job of investigation the likes of which you will never see again. I used all sorts of methods, from suing as my own lawyer to the most painstaking digging over a period of not less than 7 years. I found and got witnesses who had not been asked the right questions, persuaded them to talk, and got direct answers. But I didn't even seek them out until I had independent documentary or photographic proof. They merely confirm, without exception, so they were not even essential to the work. They give it doctrine and context in allocating responsibility.

The documentation is so extensive it would be mechanically impossible to include it all between covers.

This is the way I work. Not just now, all my life. There has never been a single kickback and during World War II I exposed some of the largest corporations in what was then the third largest picture magazine. A series I did then on Nazi cartels was followed by government action.

You use the word frustration. I don't ever really feel that. Other emotions, yes, but never for long. If I were genuinely frustrated do you think I'd have been able to persevere with no funding at all for more than 11 years? Or produce almost 100% of what has come to light? My first work was done a year and a half before another appeared. Nothing of substance has been added to what I first published. Plagiarism was extensive. This besides what you would normally expect from people working in the same field, duplication. The plagiarism for the most part is not skilled, is obvious. Example: every footnote in Thompson's Six Seconds that says "according to a document recently discovered in the National Archives actual is a theft from but one of my books, the second. (These people, naturally, begin by disliking me even if they have never met me and are largely responsible for the nasty things that have been spread about me. If you haven't heard them if anything comes of this expect to.)

Sometimes for part of a day or a day I feel a downer. But it has never yet kept me from doing some work and it never will. I just do a different kind of work. What triggers it is generally something like what Dick Gregory is up to now. Few people can understand its counter-productivity. It has been very hurtful, will be more damaging, and it could have broken the whole thing wide open, if out of context and led to more and very serious problems. Dick is keeping separate. We are not strangers. But I have been able to moderate some of the sickening excesses and deceptions. (That excellent photopoptical work was done originally for me. I am the godfather of Groden's son. Despite the pressure I have kept on him Groden was here three weeks ago.)

I cope. One way or another I manage. This is the one way not to be frustrated. If you have spent 35 years in movies and TV you'll not be able to really understand how I have done it or that I could do the work I've done while living as I do. Without the willingness to cope and some ingenuity in it the work would have been utterly impossible. I had more than 100 international rejections of Whitewash and then went into debt to invent the undergound book and then, without a penny for ads or promos made a success of it. I have carried this out in one way or another since. For two years it has been rare when our thermostat has been above 60 and then only for my wife's comfort. I turn the furnace off nights entirely most nights, not just down. I mean when it is below freezing outside. It is now 7 a.m. and I'll turn the furnace on because I'll soon be waking my wife. I've had heat in the house only by a single fireplace. I cut the wood and carry it or pull it about 1,000 feet to the house. On my shoulder or in a cart. After breakfast I'll cut enough wood this weekend to last at least all of next week. Because it is essential that I be available by phone I do this weekends only, when my wife can answer the phone. To keep from being too cold I merely wear more clothes. We have adjusted to this kind of life and the kind of diet it means without regrets or any serious problems form it. We may be better off from never being able to buy red meat.

What I am really saying is that coping must become a way of life. It must cover all of life, to the degree one is capable of it. I regard my work as an accomplishment. Having to cope with so many extra problems for so many years has hurt the literary quality of my work but has helped its productivity. Learning to overcome some obstacles leads to understanding how to tackle others.

People who lead more traditional lives sometimes find this and what it has done to me hard to comprehend. I think it has helped make a more honest man of me. I never lie. About anything. You'd be surprised how helpful that is. On the other hand, people are frequently uneasy about it. It is offbeat today.

Perhaps the most important single thing to address is the subject itself.

There is nothing more Establishmentarian than the work I do or the way I do it.

I try to make the system work. For me it has worked. Few lawyers can point to the record I have in court. (I have just been given another sensation denied me for 8 years, as soon as I filed those papers that are a first step to going to court. I filed the first suit under the amended Freedom of Information Act - and one of my suits was the first of four cited as requiring the amending and the overriding of Ford's veto - and the FBI says it has already made copies for me of what it had gone to the Supreme Court to deny me. They'll never deliver what I asked for. They'll have some dodge and if they do we'll wind up in court. But they are to have given these documents to my lawyer yesterday.

Not in any sense am I or have I been against the system. The more Isucceed the better, the healthier it is. If what I represent does not succeed then the system as we know it will be done for and all those nice benefits it holds for the well-off will end, as it did under Hitler except for the few who will then not really enjoy what they have.

People of means do not think this through. The tend to assume there is something wrong with it but they don t for a minute question the propriety of appealing an adverse court decision.

Were this not the case do you think the Congress would have amended the law over the one suit I have ever #lost?" (Do you really think this was in fact a loss?) And while I beg you and whatever friend or acquaintance you have in mind not to use this, I tell you that Teddy Kennedy is the one who made it specific. I can send you a copy of that page of the Congressional Record and I tell you he did not do it not knowing what he was doing or what it meant. However, because the papers missed it, any use of it now subjects him to great pressure and that I would avoid, hence this request.

It is the eastern intellectual establishment only that ever held the view you express toward the subject. And then not publishers' editors. The more conservative and wealthier the people I've met the more they've held the view I do. The rare exception is the Dean Storey and the Jaworski type, and they are not liberals Democrats. (Jaworski was a Connally man. Also CIA.) But Storey gave me access to his files. Henry Wade is a friend and agrees with me except on Oswald's involvement. H.L.Hunt paid for my first trip to Dallas. (This reminds me, the number of other literary properties I have or can deliver are vast and I am confident of potentially high value. In the course of this work I've come into many.)

There has been a marked change with Watergate only the comfortable and the busy have not kept up with it. Dick Gregory's charges against the CIA are manufactured out of nothing but the Senate is going to "investigate" them. Jim Lesar and I have both been consulted, I by the press. Three years ago they'd have been ignored. They will now have the result other than Dick intends. But can you image them being given a second thought prior to Watergate?

I'm hoping to get out there before too long. I would have been there several weeks ago if there had not been a disagreement between Mort Shal and his producer, Rudy Tellez, who has been replaced. Perhaps there can then be a meeting with the man you have in mind. The show will pay my transportation costs.

You mention Don Freed. I've met him once and we've spoken fairly often. He wants to do a movie about what I did in the Ray/King case and I have agreed subject to agreement on terms. He seems to have a package, with an RFK movie first. My own view

is that the odds are strongly against the success of the kind of RFK movie he has in mind and that it can kill the second.

He seems to be a very pleasant, articulate, sophisticated man. He makes a very good impression. The only problem has been getting meaningful numbers from him. He agrees when I say aside from all percentages of what is the meaningless to me I want a guaranteed minim solid figure but does not come up with it.

The is the one formula for a successful ring movie and there is a vast potential market among the blacks alone. Another outfit, after buying my published work from me, hired someone to steal other of it from friends. It didn't work, as it couldn't, and the last I heard they are suing each other. I have no first-hand knowledge of it. They are the Executive Action people. Because the only dealings we had were a phone call in which I expressed a willingness to make a deal I can't understand their apparent unwillingness to deal with me and to jeopardize their venture with needless theft. I am inclined to attribute it to what I mentioned above, those whose ethics are to me less than they should be and who serve selfish ends with defamations. To a crook the honest man is always the bad guy otherwise a crook sees himself as a crook.

Let me be blunt also with Executive Action for you do not really understand it.

There would be no opposition to a shit movie. As long as it has no contact with reality anything is acceptable. Look at the assassination books, all after I broke the ice. Epstein and Lane's are of acceptable formula:Liberal Warren chief villain. Meagher's couldn t be printed for more than a year. Thompson's is a Weis formula book, largely lifted from the work of others, mostly me, and reassembled into a slicky. (The market was not fooled.)

Executive Action is (probably Lane's) direct plagiarism of a French CIA (SDECE) and probably our CIA black book. I broke the accompanying movie up in December 1968. That book is Farewell America. It is fake of a kind that helps the spooks this they bring them out. Lane knew this from New Orleans. The alleged "factual" support was collected after appearance of the Bell book by a fairight bright legal secretary in Dallas whose hobby is the assassinations.It was rewritten by David Lifton. It is also completely irrelevant because there is no factual support for the theme or alleged fact in any variation of Executive Action. I tried to warn Trumbo as soon as I heard he was doing a script because I have boundless admiration and respect for his early work. He probably resented it and probably thinks I'm a nut.

However, I suggest looking at this another way: the world did not fall when a movie with that extteme doctrine came out and was a financial success. What this really means is that there need be no fear about an honest movie. The banks now have an entirely different set of problems and I can't imagine them not being very concerned about the state of affairs and their situations. Anything that even tends to restore faith is helpful to them. What little cleaning up there was after Watergate (and I've a large draft of the unexposed to read and correct) did not hurt. It helped. And it has led to super-Establishmentarian exposes of other misconduct by those formerly totally immune. (This book, by the way, is a completed investigation of one aspect of the current official investigations and thus has added prospect.) When did one ever dream that the ikon of the lamented St. Edgar would be spat upon by his disciples, admirers and government in general? Or that all these CIA subversions would be aired quite competitively?

If people are afraid they don't realize what now is really "in."

I'm sorry I have to get to other things and won't have time to correct this and still get it in the mail today. We have one pickup only and I can't go into town. My wife has become nauseous and had to return to bed. It is from the tnesions of her work that ends in three weeks. (She manages a Block tax office.) It is our only regular income and she works two days each day. So I won't leave home. I'd wanted to write you as soon as I received your letter but if I don't get the packages out daily they accumulate and become a serious problem. And there are day to day needs that must be met. I hope you'll be able to surmount the typos.

If I do get out there I'd like to suggest a meeting with the man you have in mind. A long one in which we can go into not only this book but other properties I think have real promise. If he is willing please let me know and I'll arrange the time. Thanks,